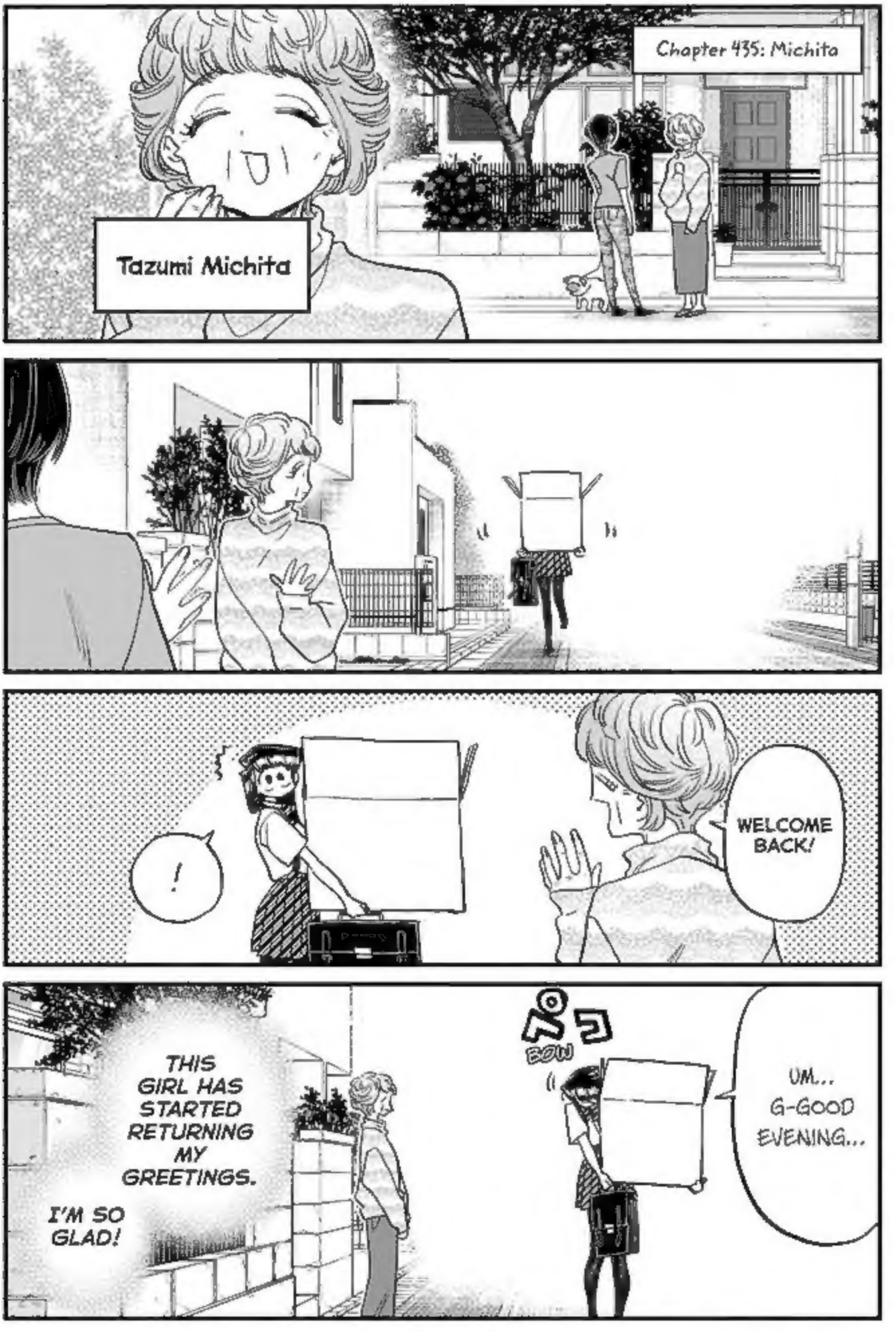
Komi Can't Communicate



Story and Art by Tomohito Oda

Translation: John Werry Lettering: Kyla Aiko

She decided to ask a question as well.
WHAT'S IN THE BOX?
DID I STARTLE HER?
STAAARE
THIS...
...
SHE TALKS SO HESITANTLY... HOW ADORABLE!
UH... MY SCHOOL'S SPORTS FESTIVAL IS COMING UP, SO I'VE DECIDED TO SURPRISE EVERYONE BY MAKING POM-POMS FOR THEM.
...UM... IT'S JUST A BIG BOX WITH ALMOST NOTHING IN IT.

!
OH, IS THAT SO? WELL, GOOD LUCK!
*Goodbyes are often awkward...
...when engaging in neighborly chitchat.
YES, GOODBYE.
UH...
...GOOD...
...UM...
...BYE.
I HOPE SHE PASSES BY AGAIN.
I WISH WE COULD HAVE CHATTED LONGER.

I'M SURE SHE WILL.
AFTER ALL, SHE'S WALKED THIS WAY FOR THE LAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS.
HUFF はっ
HUFF はっ
DASH タッタッタッ
DASH
DASH
A few days later
FLIIINCH ビヨン
!
PWOP ぴくん
WELCOME BACK!
TROT タッ
TROT タッ
TROT タッ
TROT タッ
She's jogging in place.
YES, UM..
...G...
...G-GOOD EVENING...

HARR-UMPH!
OLD? ME?! NEVER!
SHE'S IN A HURRY, BUT I'M BEING AN OLD NUISANCE!
WHAT'S THE HURRY?
UMF!

...BUT...
I WAS MAKING THEM ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE...
R-REMEMBER THE POM-POMS I MENTIONED?

ペラペラペラペラペラ
SLAH SLAH SLAH SLAH
...SO I THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO USE POM-POMS THAT ARE ALL DIFFERENT COLORS AND DESIGNED TO SUIT THEIR PERSONALITIES AND...AND...
...M-MY CLASS HAS A LOT OF LONERS WHO AREN'T GOOD IN GROUPS...
SLAH SLAH SLAH SLAH
ペラペラペラ

OH DEAR...
WHAT AN ADORABLE GIRL!
...!

JOG
JOG
JOG
SHE'S STILL JOGGING.
I DECIDED TO DO IT ALL ON MY OWN, SO I COULD JUST GIVE UP, BUT...
??
"Why?"
WANT TO COME INSIDE?
Komi accepted the invitation.
!
Thinks the décor is neat and stylish
But can't say it
I should tidy up.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THE CLUTTER.

BRISK テキパキ
IS TEA ALL RIGHT?
ジャ
SPSHHH
HM?
UM... NO WAY...
えっ
あ
コク。
!
NOW, LET US BEGIN.
?!
"Begin what ?!"
??!
"Which means ?!"
I'M GOOD AT CRAFTS!
MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY...
...TWO YEARS AGO IN MARCH.

...
YAAAAY
SO I'VE GOT TONS OF FREE TIME!
?!
Let's get cracking!
Two of us can work twice as fast!
TRMBL
TRMBL
...!
...AND WE NEVER HAD CHILDREN.
MY HUSBAND DIED...
This one's for practice!
There! I made one!

I WAS SO LONELY. I STARTED GREETING EVERYONE AS THEY COMMUTED TO WORK AND SCHOOL SO I COULD FEEL SOME KIND OF CONNECTION.
*The street plan allows for various routes.
...AND I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
MY PRESENCE WAS SO AWKWARD THAT SOME PEOPLE BEGAN USING DIFFERENT ROUTES...
BUT THIS GIRL KEPT ON STROLLING BY!
I STARTED MAKING UP STORIES ABOUT HER LIFE BASED ON HER CHANGING REACTIONS TO ME.

PERHAPS I CAN TELL HER THAT...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO HELP HER.
SHE'S IN NEED, SO...
...AS WE MAKE POM-POMS TOGETHER.
OH, REALLY?
...I DIDN'T HAVE TO STAY UP ALL NIGHT, SO I GOT A LITTLE SLEEP.
ANYWAY, THANKS TO HER...
My legs fell asleep...
!!
UM, NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE...
...WOULD YOU SIT UP, PLEASE?

To be continued!